

Distr.:
LIMITED

ECA/WRD/ARCSE/4
15 July 1986

Original: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

African Regional Centre for Solar Energy
Second Ordinary Meeting of the Council

Bujumbura (Burundi), 11-13 June 1986

LC/NAIROBI

REPORT

I. Organization and attendance

1. The Second Ordinary Meeting of the Council of the African Regional Centre for Solar Energy (ARCSE) was held in Bujumbura (Burundi), from 11 to 13 June 1986.
2. The Meeting was opened by the current Chairman of the Council H.F. Mr. Isidor Nyaboya, Minister of Public Works, Energy and Mines of the Republic of Burundi.
3. The Meeting was attended by the representatives of the following members of the Council: Burundi, Egypt, Gabon, Guinea, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and Zaire.
4. The Deputy Executive Secretary of ECA attended the meeting, representing the Executive Secretary in his official capacity as a member of the Council and as ex-officio Chairman of the Executive Board.
5. The representative of the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity also attended the meeting as a member of the Council.
6. The representative of Algeria, United Republic of Tanzania and Zimbabwe attended the meeting in an observer capacity.
7. The representative of Canada/Quebec and France as the members of follow-up Committee of the Summit of Francophone countries and the representative of EEC, ECL, PTA and WHO also attended the meeting.

II. Agenda

8. The Second Ordinary Meeting of the Council of ARCSE adopted the following agenda:
 1. Opening of the Meeting
 2. Election of officers
 3. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
 4. Consideration of the work programme and budget of ARCSE
 5. Consideration of the report on selection of candidates for core staff of ARCSE
 6. Launching of the Centre
 7. Date and venue of the next meeting of the Council of ARCSE
 8. Any other business
 9. Consideration and adoption of the report of the meeting
 10. Closure of the meeting.

III. Account of proceedings

9. In his address, His Excellency the Minister of Public Works, Energy and Mines, welcomed all participants to the Second Ordinary Meeting of the Council of the African Regional Centre for Solar Energy.

10. An overall view of the energy sector in Burundi was presented. He said that in order to alleviate the problems of energy, the country's strategy was first, to set-up a system that would allow Burundi to be less dependent on foreign supply and petroleum products; the second strategy being the possibilities of reducing the demand on woodfuel products to avoid the situation whereby woodfuel, which accounts for 90 percent of the national energy consumption, but the total wood area accounting for only 3 percent of the total area of the country will become less and less available.

11. He then presented the whole process by which the creation of the Centre went through. He said that it was the Conference of Ministers of ECA in 1976 during which an agreement was reached on the creation of the Centre and the proposal of the Constitution was adopted. Continuing, he mentioned the United Nations Conference on new and renewable sources of energy which was held in Nairobi in 1981 and which was preceded by the OAU Economic Summit held in Lagos in April 1980 during which a strong recommendation was made on the setting up in Africa of a regional and subregional network of co-operation in solar energy sector.

12. He recalled the conclusions related to the launching of the Centre among which the most important is the payment on time by each member State of its expected contribution to the Centre's budget in order to allow the Centre start its activities by 1 October 1986.

13. He mentioned that a lot of work has been done in approaching some countries as well as international organizations for support in launching the activities of the Centre. He ended by drawing the attention of all the delegates to the importance of the different items on the agenda and said that the government of Burundi is doing its best to make the launching of the Centre possible; he requested help of every member country in this task of launching the Centre.

14. In his welcome address the Deputy Executive Secretary of ECA, Mr. M. Tchouta-Moussa conveyed regrets of Mr. Adebayo Adedeji, who was unable to attend the meeting because of other pressing commitments.

15. He congratulated the Government of Burundi for being selected the host country for ARCSE and expressed the hope that the Government would do everything in its power to ensure substantial material and financial support to the Centre which is expected to be well over and above its normal commitment as a participating member State.

16. He highlighted the problems of overdependence on conventional sources of energy by African member States and the needs of Africa in view of economic crisis facing the continent. The establishment of ARCSE was expected to play a major role in alleviating some of the energy problems existing in African member States which had a significant potential in new and renewable sources of energy and were in a particularly good position to develop and utilize them.

17. He stressed the importance of an effective energy transition for economic survival and social progress and indicated that in spite of the recent weakening of the oil prices the development of new and renewable sources of energy should be viewed as a process that would make energy available to the remote rural African communities where it had been difficult so far to create an impact with the conventional sources of energy.

18. He also reiterated that for the most African countries non-commercial sector was the largest consumer of energy and hence the one with the most far reaching consequences from conservation point of view, since it is in this sector where bulk of wood and wood products are used, both in the rural and urban areas.

19. In connexion with the objectives of the Centre he emphasized two important aspects. First, the Centre is expected to encourage the establishment of new national and subregional centres and to strengthen the existing ones for the purpose of liaison and co-ordination in the field of research and development of Solar Energy utilization. Second, the Centre is expected to ensure that research findings are widely distributed and publicized for use by the member States.

20. He reported on the developments which took place soon after the conclusion of the Second Extraordinary Meeting of the Council held from 20-21 January 1986 in Addis Ababa. The job descriptions of the core posts had been sent to all ECA member States and assessment of the candidates, whose applications reached ECA by 1 June 1986 been prepared and shortlisting for each post have been done.

21. He also briefly recounted the proposed work programme of the Centre and its budget and suggested that these documents may be reviewed concretely again by the Executive Director of ARCSE and his staff who will advise the Council accordingly at a later stage.

22. In conclusion, he expressed a hope that ARCSE will address all the issues facing it as soon as it becomes operational and he pledged ECA assistance in the launching of the Centre so it can live up to the high hopes that the member States placed in the establishment of the Centre.

23. The representative of the Secretary-General of the OAU said it was a pleasure for him to participate in the meeting of the Council of the African Regional Centre for Solar Energy and to extend to all members of the Council a hearty welcome. He

expressed his heart felt congratulation to the Government of Burundi for hosting the ARCSE in Bujumbura.

24. He further said that the OAU will do all that is in its power to assist the development of the African Regional Centre for Solar Energy in accordance to the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos and in assisting the member States in the development of expertise in the field of energy and especially new and renewable sources of energy.

Election of Officers

25. After the consultation of Heads of delegation the following bureau have been unanimously elected: President, The Minister of Public Works, Energy and Mines, H.E. Mr. Isidor Nyaboya (Burundi), Vice-President, The Minister of Energy and Water Resources, H.E. Mr. Didjob Divungi Di Ndinge (Gabon) and Rapporteur, The Minister of Energy, Water Resources and Development, H.E. Mr. Kumbirai Kangai (Zimbabwe).

Consideration of the Work Programme and Budget of ARCSE (Agenda item 4, ECA/NRD/ARCSE/3)

26. A representative of the secretariat briefly described the structure of the Centre and outlined the activities planned for ARCSE during the first three years of operation.

27. He stressed the point that ARCSE at present is concerned with very difficult task of laying the foundations for its operational stages. The work programme and sources of revenue as well as financial issues were outlined. A general organizational chart of ARCSE, activities of the units during the first two years and draft budget estimates were presented both for regular budget activities and for capital investment.

28. In the discussion that followed the Council pointed out that a clear distinction should be made between preliminary phase and the rest of the operational phases. Besides it was felt that the work programme should be realistic in order to avoid overprogramming and take account of resources to be realized.

29. It was also pointed out that an assessment of the needs of member States in new and renewable sources of energy and especially solar energy, should constitute the basis for the formulation of the work programme for both the preliminary phase and the rest of the operational phases of the Centre. After a considerable discussion of the work programme, the Council decided that work programme, outlined in ECA report should be accepted in principle as presented. However, the ECA secretariat was requested to revise it at the later stage taking into consideration the financial situation of the Centre. The contributions of member States should also be recalculated on the basis of the available resources for operational budget for the phases of the revised work programme. The revision of the budget should be based on the following decisions:

a) That the personnel of the Centre be reduced to the posts of Executive Director, Chief technical advisor, only four directors of units and minimum administrative support staff. The other directors would be appointed when resources have become available;

b) Reasonable travel requirement should be clearly indicated through the mission programmes which should be well formulated;

c) Operational activities of the Centre should be clearly shown;

d) The budget should be prepared on a yearly basis and it should indicate operations function and extrabudgetary investment as well as income and expenditure;

e) Based on the reduced budget, the rates of contributions of the member States should be revised;

f) Development of infrastructure should be postponed from the reduced programme;

g) The initial programme should include inter alia an aspect of assessment of the needs of member States in NRSE;

h) The revised budget and programme should be presented to the Extraordinary Meeting of the Council to be held during the launching of the Centre.

30. While discussing the budget of the Centre, a question was raised whether ARCSE should approach potential donors to assist with the budget of the Centre. The meeting was of an opinion that African member States should first of all show the spirit of self-reliance by paying the contribution for regular operations before seeking the international assistance. In this respect, some delegates reiterated the point that the member States should be requested to make their contributions to the Centre's budget as soon as possible.

31. The Council decided that there should be further sensitization of member States to pay their contributions, to this end, some member States were appointed to sensitize other member States and non-member States in the subregion as follows:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| - Central Africa: | . Burundi and Gabon |
| - East and Southern Africa: | . Uganda and Zimbabwe |
| - North Africa: | . Egypt and Libya |
| - West Africa: | . Mali and Nigeria |

The Council also decided that the Chairman of the Council should write letters directly to the Ministers of Energy who were not present at the Meeting requesting them to initiate actions on the member States's contribution to the budget of the Centre.

32. The revised budget and programme should be presented to the Extraordinary Meeting of the Council to be held during the launching of the Centre.

33. The Council reconfirmed that the ECA secretariat would continue to act as the ad-interim secretariat of the Centre until the Centre is launched.

Consideration of the report on selection of candidates for core staff of ARCSE
(Agenda item 5)

34. A representative of the secretariat introduced the item. He recalled that the Second Extraordinary Meeting of the Council instructed ECA to send to each member State the advertisements and job descriptions of the core posts of the Centre. EC requested member States to encourage experts to submit their applications by 15 May 1986 for the available posts. Because of weak response from member States, this deadline was later extended to 1 June 1986.

35. The representative of the secretariat listed the countries and candidates who applied for core posts. He said that an attempt on short-listing has been made, however, the Council might still wish to add new candidates or extend the deadline for submission of new applications.

36. During the discussion the Council extended the deadline for submission of applications to 15 July 1986. The member States should be informed by telex that the list is still open for candidates until 15 July 1986. The panel to carry out the interview was appointed consisting of members of the Bureau, namely, Burundi, Gabon and Zimbabwe, two representatives of the Executive Board, namely Nigeria and Zambia and the representative of ECA and OAU.

37. The Council further decided that the host country should be asked to fill the post of Director of Administration on the understanding that this would facilitate the dialogue between the Centre and the Government of Burundi and expedite administrative procedures. The Government of Burundi was asked to provide the interim secretariat with a list of names from which the Panel would select the most suitable candidate.

38. The ECA secretariat was requested to organize in Addis Ababa, the interview for the shortlisted candidates and, if resources become available, make offers to the successful candidates who should be poised to take up their appointment a month before the launching of the Centre. The ECA would utilize available funds of the Centre to organize the interview.

Launching of the Centre (Agenda item 6)

39. The Council discussed the issues, programme and dates for the launching of the Centre in Bujumbura. It was decided that the launching ceremony should be

preceded by the meeting of the Executive Board and Council on 5 and 6 November 1986 respectively. The launching would be on 7 November 1986. It was decided that the following issues would be discussed by the policy organs during their meetings:

- (a) Revised budget and priority work programme of the Centre;
- (b) Status of the contributions of the member States;
- (c) Rules of procedure for the meetings of the policy organs;
- (d) Draft headquarters agreement.

40. The programme for launching of the Centre was suggested as follows:

(a) Handing over of the temporary premises of the Centre by the Government of Burundi to the Centre;

(b) Installation of the Executive Director and his staff in the temporary premises;

(c) Transfer to the headquarters of the Centre of all documentation on ARCSE to the Executive Director by the ECA secretariat;

(d) Handing over of the deed on the land on which the Centre will eventually build its permanent premises.

Date and venue of the next meeting of the Council of ARCSE (Agenda item 7)

41. The Governing Council decided that the next meeting of the Council take place in Bujumbura, Burundi on 6 November 1986 and be preceded by the meeting of the Executive Board on 5 November 1986.

Any other business (Agenda item 8)

42. A representative of the secretariat made an announcement that ECA is planning to convene the Consultative Meeting on mobilization of financial resources for the development of New and Renewable sources of Energy in Africa on the last week of November 1986 and the venue of the meeting be in the ECA headquarters, Addis Ababa. He made an appeal to the delegations to help the joint team of experts from UN Headquarters and ECA to execute the preparatory missions in July-August 1986 to various African member States in West, Central and Eastern Africa, in order to prepare the consultative meeting.

Consideration and adoption of the report of the Meeting (Agenda item 9)

43. After the draft report submitted to the meeting by the Rapporteur had been considered and amended the final report was adopted.

Closure of the Meeting (Agenda item 10)

44. After the Chairman thanked the delegates for their co-operation and the positive manner in which they contributed to the success of the meeting he declared the Second Ordinary Meeting of the Council of the African Regional Centre for Solar Energy closed.

Vote of thanks

45. The representative of Zaire Government expressed thanks to the Government and the people of Burundi for the hospitality accorded to the Second Ordinary Meeting of the Council of ARCSE and congratulated Burundi for being selected as the host of the Centre.

Recommendations

I. Representation of member States at the Meeting of the Council

The Council of Ministers, meeting in Bujumbura from 11-13 June 1986,

Concerned with low representation of the member States at the Second Ordinary Meeting of the Council,

Deplores that out of 21 member States only six were present at the Meeting of which only three were at ministerial level,

1. Appeals to the member States to ensure that the meetings of the Council and the Executive Board are regularly attended by each member State,

2. Requests the member States that attendance at the Council meeting should be by the Minister responsible for energy in each member State,

II. Mobilization of financial resources for the development of Solar Energy in Africa

The Council of Ministers during this Second Ordinary Meeting held in Bujumbura from 11-13 June 1986,

Mindful of the need to obtain all financial resources required to launch the Centre,

Aware of the fact that the primary responsibility of raising the major resources for the regular budget of the Centre rests with African member States themselves,

1. Urges member States to pay their contributions promptly in order to enable the Centre to take off effectively,

2. Charges the Chairman of the Council, Mr. Isidor Nyaboya, Minister of Public Works, Energy and Mines of the Republic of Burundi, to seek on behalf of the 21 member States of the Centre financial assistance from bilateral and multilateral donor countries and agencies for the development of solar energy in Africa.